



# 2018 ANNUAL SUMMIT REPORT

**Public Safety in a Connected World**





# OUR FUTURE HAMILTON, OUR COMMUNITY VISION

Our Future Hamilton is the city's 25-year community vision. It builds on the legacy of Vision 2020, Hamilton's first community vision that was approved by City Council in 1992. From 2015-2016, Our Future Hamilton engaged with nearly 55,000 residents and community partners to create a new shared community vision, including six community priorities, 88 key directions, and 57 signs of success to guide long-term planning.

In 2016, City Council sent an important message to our residents and incorporated the community vision priorities into the new 10-year strategic plan for the City of Hamilton. The City of Hamilton and over 120 community organizations have committed to implementing the community vision. Many community partners are using the vision to guide their strategic priorities and focus their work on making progress towards achieving Our Future Hamilton.





# HAMILTON'S ANNUAL PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT SUMMIT

Hamilton's annual public engagement summit is one of the legacies of Our Future Hamilton. Established in 2016, the Our Future Hamilton Summit has grown to become one of the largest public engagement summits in the country. Over 450 participants including residents, community partners, academia, policy makers, municipalities and other stakeholders attend the free annual summit in November.

Each year, the summit examines current issues that our community prioritized through the visioning process and share our collective progress in moving the vision forward. In addition to highlighting key partnerships and local initiatives, the annual summit provides an opportunity for continued public engagement, collaboration, and collective action-taking involving government, community partners and residents.



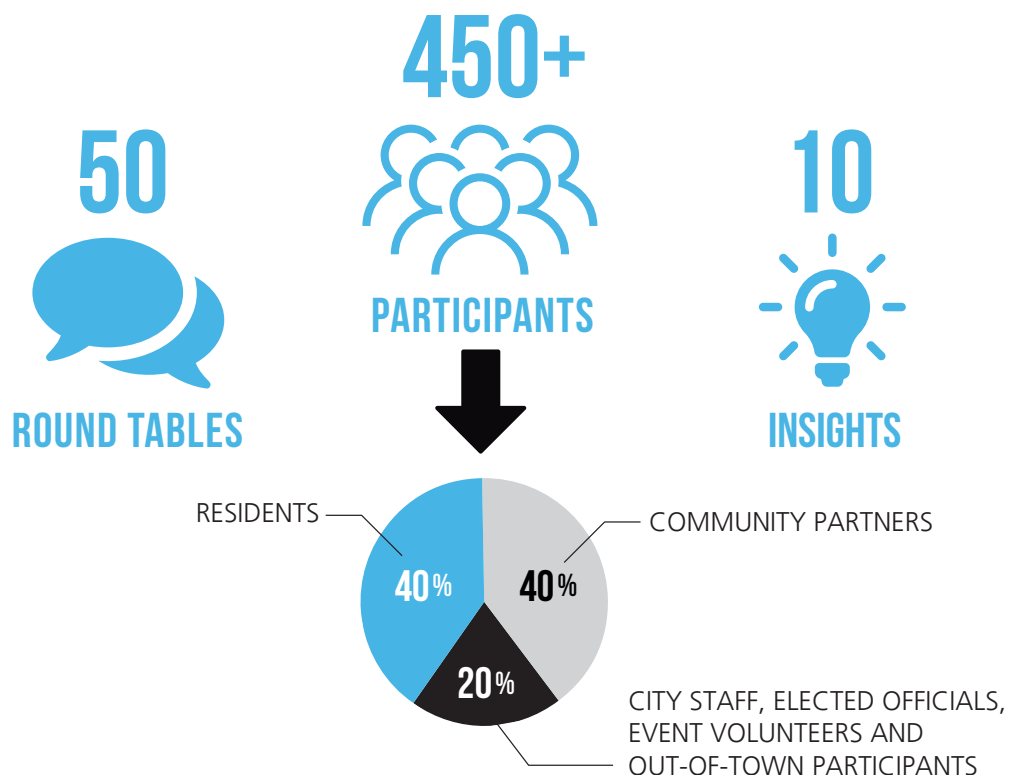
# 2018 SUMMIT: PUBLIC SAFETY IN A CONNECTED WORLD

The theme for the third annual summit was Public Safety in a Connected World and featured keynote speakers such as Dr. Elizabeth Richardson, Hamilton's Medical Officer of Health, Ray Boisvert, Provincial Security Advisor for the Government of Ontario, and Beatrice Ekoko, Project Manager for Environment Hamilton.

At the summit, participants and speakers examined both the direct and indirect aspects of public safety in our increasingly connected world. Through facilitated table discussions, attendees explored the following two questions:

- WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE TOP PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUES FACING HAMILTON TODAY?
- WHAT CAN WE DO TO ADDRESS THEM?

Our engaging conversations trended **#1 in Hamilton** and **#2 on Twitter in Canada**. They also led to the formulation of **10 key insights** to guide and support the work that is collectively being done to move our city's vision forward.





**Registration, Networking and Continental Breakfast**

**Welcome**

Dr. Gary Warner, Summit Host

**Opening Remarks and Territorial Land Acknowledgment**

Councillor Jason Farr, Ward 2, City of Hamilton

**Our Future Hamilton Progress Update**

John Ariyo, Manager, Community Initiatives

**Students' Video Presentation: Community Champions**

Mohawk College, Broadcasting - Television & Communications Media

**2018 Presenting Sponsor's Remarks**

Dr. Lorraine Carter, Director, McMaster University CCE

**Community Partner's Showcase: Friendly Streets Initiative**

Beatrice Ekoko, Project Manager, Environment Hamilton

**COFFEE BREAK**

**Introduction of Keynote Speakers**

Dr. Gary Warner, Summit Host

**Healthy and Safe Communities: A Shared Commitment**

Dr. Elizabeth Richardson, Hamilton Medical Officer of Health

**Exploiting the Opportunities While Understanding the Risk of Life On-line in a Digital Economy**

Ray Boisvert, Ontario Provincial Security Advisor

**ARTISTIC PERFORMANCE, The Vaudevillian band**

**Community Public Safety Expert Panel**

moderated by Dr. Gary Warner

Dave Cunliffe, Chief, Hamilton Fire Department  
Dan Kinsella, Deputy Chief, Hamilton Police Service  
Mike Sanderson, Chief, Hamilton Paramedic Service

**Introduction to Table Discussions**

Cindy Mutch, Senior Project Manager, Community Engagement

**TABLE CONVERSATION**

**Thank You and Closing Remarks**

Dan McKinnon, General Manager, Public Works Department





# SUMMIT INSIGHTS

Following a series of keynote and panel presentations, summit attendees discussed their views on the top public health and safety issues facing Hamilton and identified ideas to address them. Over 1,625 conversation highlights were collected and analysed.

**1** PROVIDING AFFORDABLE HOUSING

**2** CONFRONTING POVERTY

**3** FOSTERING SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS

**4** SUPPORTING MENTAL HEALTH

**5** ADDRESSING DRUG USE

**6** INCREASING COMMUNITY EDUCATION

**7** BUILDING COMMUNITY

**8** IMPROVING PEDESTRIAN,  
BIKE & ROAD SAFETY

**9** STRENGTHENING SUPPORTS & SERVICES

**10** CHAMPIONING ENVIRONMENTAL  
SUSTAINABILITY

TEN KEY INSIGHTS EMERGED FROM OUR DISCUSSIONS.





# 1

## PROVIDING AFFORDABLE HOUSING

A key priority identified by summit participants was the need to provide safe, affordable, and accessible housing for those needing it most. Chronic homelessness, gentrification, and access to dignified housing options were commonly listed as key issues facing Hamilton. Higher than average housing prices, rising rent, crowded shelters, and the emergence of tent cities along city trails were prevailing discussion points among attendees.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Require new developments to build affordable housing units and/or allocate a percentage of new housing for lower-income.
2. Develop and encourage mixed-income housing.
3. Investigate collaborative partnerships with private businesses or trade schools to help repair City of Hamilton housing units.
4. Provide shelter and affordable housing options that allow pets.
5. Explore housing alternatives like shipping container houses and spearhead initiatives like tiny houses in alleyways.
6. Advocate for increased funding to address the housing crisis.
7. Increase municipal investment in social housing.
8. Develop policies, laws, and increased legislation to increase housing accessibility.
9. Support and partner with organizations like Habitat for Humanity, Indwell, and Wesley Urban Ministries as well as the private sector and faith communities.



# 2

## CONFRONTING POVERTY

Poverty is a multifaceted issue for which the causes must be treated as well as the effects. Going beyond the need for living wage jobs in Hamilton, participants also identified effects of poverty such as lack of quality housing options, educational achievement, food security, and access to services. Consideration for bringing back the basic income pilot project was frequently noted among summit attendees.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Increase the minimum wage and provide living wage jobs.
2. Advocate to the provincial government for return of the Basic Income Pilot Program.
3. Subsidize HSR and SOBI bikes for those with low-income.
4. Provide access to primary and preventative care as well as uninsured health services like eye and dental care.
5. Provide access to skill building opportunities and free community-based education like City School by Mohawk.
6. Develop partnerships to increase experiential learning opportunities.
7. Increase access to fresh and nutritious local foods.
8. Support non-profit social enterprises like 541 Eatery & Exchange.
9. Focus on preventing poverty by using an upstream approach.



# 3

## FOSTERING SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS



Participants identified healthy and safe neighbourhoods as a key priority for Hamilton. While attendees noted that positive changes have taken place in some neighbourhoods, they also voiced concern about other areas becoming increasingly perceived as unsafe. Street violence, incidents of harassment, gang activity, and a growing culture of fear were frequently identified issues. Bullying, youth crime, and violence in schools were also important matters of concern.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Use cameras, better lighting, and functional public art to deter and measure safety in public spaces.
2. Place emergency safety buttons in public spaces throughout the city.
3. Increase police presence and police civic engagement opportunities.
4. Strengthen security in schools.
5. Provide safe places and entertainment for youth that does not involve a bar.
6. Expand safe disposal sites for needles.
7. Advance anti-racism and anti-oppression education, outreach, networking opportunities.
8. Implement a volunteer community ambassador or safety patrol program like Guardian Angels in New York City.
9. Identify strategies to reduce fears of safety in our city.



# 4

## SUPPORTING MENTAL HEALTH

Mental health is a prevalent issue that impacts all parts of our community. It is both a cause and effect of other issues such as homelessness, poverty, substance abuse, and violence.

Rising demand for mental health services among young people and a need for people to understand where they can seek help were pressing calls for action. Participants also noted limited access to mental health supports, prevention, and treatment services.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Improve awareness of available mental health resources, services, and training options.
2. Increase access points and support options within the community such as mental health programs at the library, counselling, and drop-in services.
3. Expand availability of mental health and addictions services that target specific populations (i.e., men, women, youth, seniors).
4. Improve service wait times and integrated follow-up care.
5. Support professional development training opportunities that focus on mental health and assisting trauma victims.
6. Strengthen collaboration among mental health service providers.
7. Develop meaningful employment options for people facing mental health challenges.
8. Advocate for increased provincial government funding to support mental health services.
9. Research the connections between social media, technology, and mental health.





# 5

## ADDRESSING DRUG USE

The rising rate of opioid-related deaths was identified as a major issue for Hamilton. At the summit, attendees discussed several harm reduction and prevention strategies to combat opioid-related overdoses including increased education, safe injection spaces, and needle disposal sites. They also identified a need for expanded civic engagement and public discourse around drug use, available treatment options, and decriminalization efforts.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Create a Drug Strategy for Hamilton.
2. Increase education and awareness around drug use and its effects, including topics like impaired driving and cannabis toxicity in relation to youth brain development.
3. Promote and expand funding for safe injection and treatment spaces.
4. Provide needle disposal sites in parks and other public spaces.
5. Explore alternative options for pain management like offering physiotherapy coverage.
6. Identify diverse ways to distribute Naloxone kits in the community like using mobile units.
7. Coordinate prevention efforts that include police, first responders, and student mentorship opportunities.
8. Ensure first responders have the tools and training they need for opioid emergency calls.
9. Continue to strengthen collaboration among community stakeholders.



# 6

## INCREASING COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Increased public education on a variety of city-wide issues was a key theme identified by attendees for creating a collective understanding of common problems facing Hamilton as well as opportunities to address them. Notable areas for expanded public information included education about the social determinants of health, cyber security, food literacy, and municipal tax spending as well as awareness about available community resources.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Host free public education workshops regarding fire prevention and emergencies (i.e., signs of a stroke and heart attack, naloxone training, as well as how to stop bleeding and de-escalate aggression).
2. Offer free first aid and life skills training in schools and the broader community.
3. Provide anti-racism, anti-oppression, and cultural sensitivity training in communities.
4. Increase access to public information for people with disabilities and on low-income that is also AODA compliant and available in multiple languages (i.e., social housing guides).
5. Support collaboration between schools and public health services to provide education for youth on sex, healthy relationships, violence, and online safety.
6. Develop partnerships between schools and police to raise awareness of drugs, safety, and social privacy issues.
7. Incorporate food literacy, nutrition education, and knowledge about local food systems into school curriculum.
8. Establish mentorship programs for students and newcomers/youth and seniors.
9. Support the library as a resource hub for community information and consider expanding programs like Xperience Annex and City School in public facilities.



# 7

## BUILDING COMMUNITY

Social isolation was identified by summit attendees as a prevalent issue throughout Hamilton. The interconnected role of isolation, mental health, and digital technology was a common discussion point as well as the need for increased citizen engagement and community building initiatives. Good urban design, planning, and land use policies were recognized as key contributors to creating inclusive places that support community.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Construct a city-wide sense of identity for Hamilton.
2. Invest in community connectors through partnerships with the police, city, community organizations, and hospitals.
3. Design mixed-use neighbourhoods and beautiful public spaces.
4. Develop an Engagement Strategy to increase community outreach and public engagement between municipal leadership, local authorities, and the community.
5. Increase outdoor recreation opportunities through the creation of activity parks like skate parks or mountain bike terrain parks.
6. Ensure optimal integration of public transit services to better connect communities.
7. Increase DARTS coverage and public transportation in rural areas.
8. Provide leadership training for marginalized and racialized communities.
9. Bring people together through a variety of strategies including neighbourhood events, cultural experiences, public art and music, volunteer opportunities like Snow Angels, and the creation of community hubs for newcomers and the LGBTQ+ community.







# 8

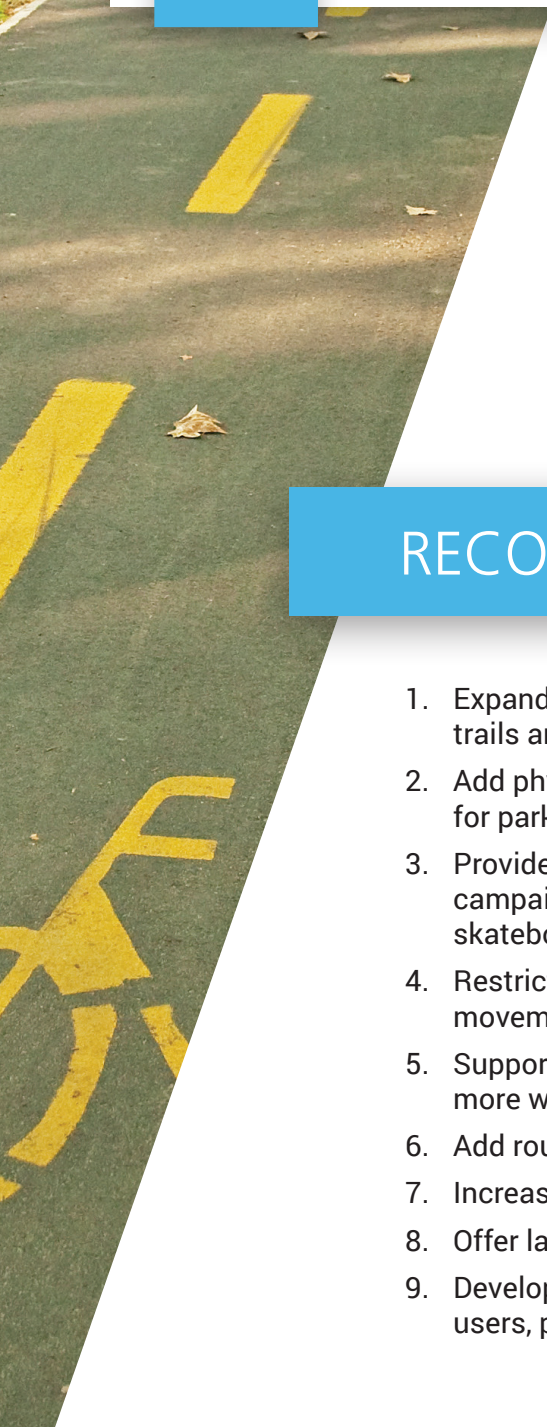


## IMPROVING PEDESTRIAN, BIKE & ROAD SAFETY

There are mounting concerns for the safety of cyclists in Hamilton. Cycling in designated bike lanes can be dangerous as it is sometimes used as parking spaces or infringed upon by cars. Physical barriers and more explicit signage for bike lanes, as well as education for all road users were consistently noted during summit table discussions. Aggressive driving, speeding, and truck traffic were key issues relating to road safety while the misuse of sidewalks by bikes, skateboards, and scooters were major challenges for pedestrian mobility.



### RECOMMENDATIONS


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1. Expand cycling infrastructure to include spaces that are not on roads, such as trails and bike paths.
  2. Add physical barriers to protect bike lanes and prevent them from being used for parking.
  3. Provide bike safety education, driving awareness training, and awareness campaigns regarding sidewalk and bike lane usage in relation to scooters, skateboards, and bikes.
  4. Restrict truck traffic in neighbourhoods and identify other routes for the movement of goods.
  5. Support more collaborative initiatives like Friendly Streets to help work towards more walkable, bikeable, and accessible neighbourhoods.
  6. Add roundabouts to city streets to increase traffic flow and improve road safety.
  7. Increase access to GO train service in Hamilton.
  8. Offer late night HSR bus service.
  9. Develop communities with inclusive street design that considers the needs of road users, pedestrians, cyclists, people with wheelchairs, school children, and seniors.



# 9



## STRENGTHENING SUPPORTS & SERVICES



Community supports, services, and care play a critical role in the health and wellbeing of Hamiltonians. Inadequate service delivery outside the downtown core was a major issue raised by summit attendees as was a need for more collaboration and networking among service providers. Increased supports for our aging population and expanded public awareness about available services were a common call to action shared by participants.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Increase service provision in outlying communities including rural areas and the mountain.
2. Consider providing mobile services and clinics to better serve marginalized populations.
3. Raise awareness about available supports and services by coordinating Open Houses for community services and through advertising contact information on billboards and bus shelters.
4. Improve accessibility to institutional spaces, community services, and walk-in clinics for people with mobility challenges.
5. Invest in more early childhood education services and supports.
6. Expand supports for seniors including long term care facilities, quality independent options, home nursing care, senior care programs, physical activity opportunities, and subsidized transportation services.
7. Collaborate with city services such as having the Fire Department help seniors with home safety inspections (i.e., checking fire alarms, heat, and electricity).
8. Reduce stigma towards accessing services like mental health supports and emergency services.
9. Expand provision of health care services by increasing the number of family doctors, nurse practitioners, community health centres, and system navigators.





# 10

## CHAMPIONING ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Air quality and the effects of climate change were identified as key environmental issues facing Hamilton. The impact of extreme temperatures and the need to mitigate heat-related illness among the city's most vulnerable populations was a leading public health concern. The harmful health effects of air pollution and the need to support clean air initiatives were also noted as top priorities by summit attendees.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Increase the tree canopy in public spaces to provide accessible shelter and respite from the heat.
2. Engage with schools, industry, and developers to increase the urban tree canopy.
3. Develop a coordinated response to air pollution.
4. Support clean air initiatives.
5. Expand greenspace in Hamilton by adding more public parks and parkettes.
6. Improve access to local greenspaces through public transportation routes.
7. Support the City's Team Up to Clean Up Program and help clean up local parks, trails, alleyways, and streets.
8. Create multi-lingual flyers about the City's recycling program and provide presentations in multi-residential buildings.
9. Ban plastic bottles (i.e., schools, public facilities).



## NEXT STEPS

The City of Hamilton, along with key stakeholders and community partners, will continue to explore discussion findings from the annual Our Future Hamilton Summit. Several key initiatives and partnerships that directly support summit insights and recommendations have already been implemented.

We look forward to sharing how community stakeholders are actively addressing public health and safety issues at the 2019 annual summit. To stay informed on our collaborative efforts in moving the vision forward, visit our [website](#) or [join our mailing list](#).

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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## SAVE THE DATE

Our next annual  
**Our Future Hamilton Summit**  
will be held on  
**Tuesday, November 5, 2019**

Registration opens in October.  
Mailing list subscribers will receive  
advance notice.